

OPEN PEER REVIEW

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Peer Review Report for "Present Status of Obtaining Palliative Care to Cancer Patients: SWOT Analysis"

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Review Timeline:

Submit Date: 10 Jun 2024

Revised Date: 5 May 2025

Accepted Date: 7 May 2025

Revision (0)

Here, you can see the **Reviewers**, **Associate Editors** and **EICs'** comments from the beginning to the end of the revision process.

REFEREE : Reviewer

10 Jun 2024

To the associate editor

It is suggested that you add a table of demographic information.

On line 88, write that you used directed content analysis.

In line 138, write that you have used the four criteria of Goba and Lincoln.

In the Ethical Considerations section, write the ethics code of the study.

You can use the following two articles to explain the problem:

Factors related to good death in the Eastern Mediterranean Region: a systematic review

Psychometric properties of the Persian version of palliative care outcome scale (POS) in adult patients with cancer

REFeree : Associate Editor

15 Jun 2024

Dear EIC,

Based on the reviewer's feedback, this manuscript will benefit from some revisions to enhance its prospect for further consideration.

REFeree : EIC

15 Jun 2024

Dear Author,

Please take the reviewer's comments into account and make the necessary revisions to the manuscript. Once you have made the adjustments, please resubmit the manuscript for further review. Thank you.

OPEN PEER REVIEW

Revision (1)

Reply to Reviewers

Ideally, the reviewing process can significantly improve the submitted manuscripts by allowing the authors to take into account the advice of reviewers. Author(s) must reply to all reviewers' comments in a separate Word file, point by point. A "**Reply to Reviewers**" document is submitted along with revised manuscript during submission of revised files, summarizing the changes that the authors made in response to the reviewers' comments. The responses to reviewers' comments specifies how the authors addressed each comment the reviewers made.

You can read the authors' responses to the reviewers' comments in the next page.

-- Reviewer 1: The authors extend their heartfelt gratitude to the editor and esteemed referees who contributed invaluable comments, significantly enhancing the quality of this article. The corrections based on the suggestions were applied as below in yellow color in the article:

Suggestions	Our responses
It is suggested that you add a table of demographic information.	Thanks. We presented the demographic characteristics of the participants in a table.
On line 88, write that you used directed content analysis.	Thanks. Our content analysis is a conventional content analysis. We fixed it.
In line 138, write that you have used the four criteria of Goba and Lincoln criteria.	Thank we corrected this part.
In the Ethical considerations section, write the ethics code of the study.	We included the ethics code in this section.
You can use the following two articles to explain the problem: Factors related to good death in the Eastern Mediterranean Region: a systematic review Psychometric properties of the Persian version of palliative care outcome scale (POS) in adult patients with cancer	Thanks. We used the second reference in the introduction.

Reviewer 2

Comments	Our responses
The world cancer statistics are mentioned in the introduction, but they are not mentioned in Iran.	Thanks. We added this sentence to the text: "Every year, 50,000 people are diagnosed with cancer in Iran."
In the following paragraph, quality of life is mentioned twice, please increase the number of references to quality of life once.(Research has shown that palliative care for cancer patients enhances their quality of life (10-12), prolongs their survival (13-15), and increases their patient	Thanks. Done.

satisfaction (7-19) by lowering depression (10-16), enhancing physical and psychological symptoms (17-18), and increasing their quality of life.)	
In relation to the current state of palliative care in Iran, explain more about what it is like.	Thanks. We have provided some explanation in introduction.
Mention the results of the studies conducted in Iran in the field of obstacles to palliative care, especially the article by Dr. Barsteh, Dr. Ansari.	In Barsteh's study, four main categories were identified: 'principles and basics,' 'legislation and policy-making,' 'the establishment of a PC system,' and 'the need for civil support. In the Ansari's study, four main identified categories included:" academic education planning", "workforce education", "public awareness", and "patient and caregiver empowerment" extracted. Neither of these two separate studies identified barriers but labeled them as reported in the text of the article
After the introduction, have a section under the title of conceptual framework and explain SWOT there.	Thank you. Given that the length of this article is already over 11,000 words, separating the data analysis section and presenting it in more detail in a new subheading will only increase the length of the article.
In the study method section, mention the reason for choosing the conventional content analysis study by mentioning the reference.	Thanks. We provided some explanation with a reputable reference: Conventional content analysis, also known as inductive content analysis, is employed when the research purpose is to describe a phenomenon for which there is limited existing literature and no established theory.
Is planned manner sampling the same as purposeful sampling?	We are really sorry; this problem was caused by the translation because the translator was not familiar with this word. We fixed it.
Provide an example of how to code data.	لطفا به استاد بفرمایید یکی از کوتایشن ها را

	انتخب بفرمایند تا آن را در متن مقاله بگذاریم
Write the findings according to the main classes. First, the main dimension is given and then the sub-classes of each class are explained.	According to the fact that we reported the findings based on SWOT and in this method, all four parts of strengths, weaknesses, threats and opportunities should be reported together for each subject, displacement causes the loss of the coherence of the article.
Give a quote for each of the subclasses.	Thanks we have provided.
The following sentence is incomplete in terms of concept and writing. Five kinds of complete support, effective communication, uncertainty, information seeking, and structural-systemic elements were identified as a consequence of this research.	This is our main conclusion. This part grammatically is true and complete.
The following sentence is semantically problematic. I think it is necessary to make editorial and grammatical corrections in terms of translation. The phrase "to be taken away from" means to be removed.	Thanks. You are right. We corrected this sentence.
Present the discussion by classes and subclasses.	Thanks a lot. We have discussed by all results.

OPEN PEER REVIEW

Revision (1)

REFeree : Reviewer

11 Jul 2024

congratulation. All my suggestions have been implemented in the text of the manuscript. Therefore, this manuscript can be published in the journal.

Azam Eshaghian-Dorcheh : Reviewer

12 Jul 2024

Dear AE, Thanks for the opportunity to review the manuscript

1. Reference 3 is related to cancer statistics in Iran in 2008. Please use a newer reference.
2. Line 35 What is the meaning of poisoning? Do you mean drug side effects and drug toxicity?
3. It is suggested that the line of 36 factors come in the form of a sentence.
4. MAXQDA software
5. How are the results extracted from the interview? What quotation has led you to the codes and semantic units of the themes? What was the basis of division based on SWOT?
6. How are the results extracted from the interview? What quotation has led you to the codes and semantic units of the themes? What was the basis of division based on SWOT?
7. In the results section, comprehensive support for the management of physical symptoms is given in the theme, but there are themes about spiritual dryness and cultural considerations. Please correct this classification. If you divide physically, mentally and spiritually, it should be written clearly. With what quotes have you reached spiritual dryness? It is suggested to put the quotation in the table.
8. Correct this "Inappropriate treatment of nurses and doctors" in terms of translation. If you mean inappropriate behavior!
9. There is no opportunity in the communication theme! Exploratory questions and supplementary interviews could not extract the opportunity.
10. It seems that none of the themes raised in uncertainty are compatible with this concept and do not convey the concept of uncertainty.
11. The manuscript has no discussion. Please compare the results of your study with others and explain your results and reasons.

Hadis Ashrafizadeh : Associate Editor

13 Jul 2024

Thanks for submitting your valuable manuscript to the journal. As a result of this, we would like to inform you that the review of your manuscript is finished, and based on the editorial decision, you need to do a "Major Revision" on your manuscript. Even

though this manuscript has enough quality to enter the review process, it needs some significant (Major) revisions in some points of view.

Reviewer 1

accept

Reviewer 2

Thanks for the opportunity to review the manuscript

1. Reference 3 is related to cancer statistics in Iran in 2008. Please use a newer reference.
2. Line 35 What is the meaning of poisoning? Do you mean drug side effects and drug toxicity?
3. It is suggested that the line of 36 factors come in the form of a sentence.
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5. How are the results extracted from the interview? What quotation has led you to the codes and semantic units of the themes? What was the basis of division based on SWOT?
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7. In the results section, comprehensive support for the management of physical symptoms is given in the theme, but there are themes about spiritual dryness and cultural considerations. Please correct this classification. If you divide physically, mentally and spiritually, it should be written clearly. With what quotes have you reached spiritual dryness? It is suggested to put the quotation in the table.
8. Correct this "Inappropriate treatment of nurses and doctors" in terms of translation. If you mean inappropriate behavior!
9. There is no opportunity in the communication theme! Exploratory questions and supplementary interviews could not extract the opportunity.
10. It seems that none of the themes raised in uncertainty are compatible with this concept and do not convey the concept of uncertainty.
11. The manuscript has no discussion. Please compare the results of your study with others and explain your results and reasons.

Decision:

Major revision

Reviewer 3

Hello dear researchers,

I am very happy that I have been given the opportunity to review this article. This study was conducted with the aim of explaining the status of providing palliative care in cancer patients. The design of the study guide is well done and its writing is done correctly. However, in order to improve the article, there are some comments that can be accepted after making minor corrections in my opinion.

- 1- The world cancer statistics are mentioned in the introduction, but they are not

mentioned in Iran.

2- In the following paragraph, quality of life is mentioned twice, please increase the number of references to quality of life once.

(Research has shown that palliative care for cancer patients enhances their quality of life (10-12), prolongs their survival (13-15), and increases their patient satisfaction (7-19) by lowering depression (10-16), enhancing physical and psychological symptoms (17-18), and increasing their quality of life.)

3- In relation to the current state of palliative care in Iran, explain more about what it is like.

4- Mention the results of the studies conducted in Iran in the field of obstacles to palliative care, especially the article by Dr. Barsteh, Dr. Ansari.

5- After the introduction, have a section under the title of conceptual framework and explain SWOT there.

6- In the study method section, mention the reason for choosing the conventional content analysis study by mentioning the reference.

7- Is planned manner sampling the same as purposeful sampling?

8- Provide an example of how to code data.

9- Write the findings according to the main classes. First, the main dimension is given and then the sub-classes of each class are explained.

10- Give a quote for each of the subclasses.

11- The following sentence is incomplete in terms of concept and writing.

Five kinds of complete support, effective communication, uncertainty, information seeking, and structural-systemic elements were identified as a consequence of this research.

12- The following sentence is semantically problematic. I think it is necessary to make editorial and grammatical corrections in terms of translation. The phrase "to be taken away from" means to be removed.

The first class to be taken away from this research is all-encompassing assistance, which emphasizes pain management and spirituality as assets.

13- Present the discussion by classes and subclasses.

best regards

REFeree : EIC

17 Jul 2024

Dear Author,

Kindly ensure to incorporate the feedback from the associate editor and reviewers into the manuscript before resubmitting.

Thank you

OPEN PEER REVIEW

Revision (2)

Reply to Reviewers

Ideally, the reviewing process can significantly improve the submitted manuscripts by allowing the authors to take into account the advice of reviewers. Author(s) must reply to all reviewers' comments in a separate Word file, point by point. A "**Reply to Reviewers**" document is submitted along with revised manuscript during submission of revised files, summarizing the changes that the authors made in response to the reviewers' comments. The responses to reviewers' comments specifies how the authors addressed each comment the reviewers made.

You can read the authors' responses to the reviewers' comments in the next page.

Reviewer 1:

1. *"Reference 3 is related to cancer statistics in Iran in 2008. Please use a newer reference."*

Response: Thank you for the observation. We have replaced the outdated reference with a more recent and relevant source that provides updated cancer statistics in Iran.

2. *"Line 35: What is the meaning of poisoning? Do you mean drug side effects and drug toxicity?"*

Response: You are absolutely right. The intended meaning was drug side effects and toxicity. We have revised the term to "drug side effects and toxicity" for clarity.

3. *"It is suggested that the line of 36 factors come in the form of a sentence."*

Response: Thank you for the suggestion. We have restructured the sentence to present the factors clearly and coherently in complete sentence form.

4. *"MAXQDA software"*

Response: We have provided further explanation in the Methods section about how MAXQDA software was used for qualitative data analysis and theme extraction.

5 & 6. *"How are the results extracted from the interview? What quotation has led you to the codes and semantic units of the themes? What was the basis of division based on SWOT?"*

Response: We appreciate this important point. We have added more detailed explanation of the coding process, including representative quotations that led to the formation of themes and subthemes. A new subsection has been added to explain how SWOT framework was applied to categorize the results.

7. *"In the results section, comprehensive support for the management of physical symptoms is given in the theme, but there are themes about spiritual dryness and cultural considerations. Please correct this classification. If you divide physically, mentally and spiritually, it should be written clearly. With what quotes have you reached spiritual dryness? It is suggested to put the quotation in the table."*

Response: Thank you for this valuable comment. We have revised the thematic structure to clearly reflect physical, mental, and spiritual dimensions. Quotations supporting the theme of "spiritual dryness" have been added in a new table, as suggested.

8. *"Correct this 'Inappropriate treatment of nurses and doctors' in terms of translation. If you mean inappropriate behavior!"*

Response: Thank you for the correction. We have revised the phrase to "inappropriate behavior of nurses and doctors" to more accurately reflect the intended meaning.

9. *"There is no opportunity in the communication theme! Exploratory questions..."*

Response: Thank you for pointing this out. We have revised the theme and clarified the opportunities in communication. Relevant excerpts and interpretations have been added to support this point.

10. It seems that none of the themes raised in uncertainty are compatible with this concept and do not convey the concept of uncertainty.

Response: This comment has addressed in the manuscript. Thank you

11. The manuscript has no discussion. Please compare the results of your study with others and explain your results and reasons.

Response: Thank you , we added Comprehensive support in the manuscript file

Reviewer2

General Comment: *“Hello dear researchers, I am very happy that I have been given the opportunity to review this article...”*

Response: We are truly grateful for your kind words and constructive feedback. We appreciate your thoughtful comments and have made the suggested changes to enhance the manuscript.

1. *“The world cancer statistics are mentioned in the introduction, but they are not mentioned in Iran.”*

Response: Thank you. We have now included the latest national cancer statistics for Iran in the Introduction section.

2. *“In the following paragraph, quality of life is mentioned twice... please increase the number of references to quality of life.”*

Response: Thank you for your observation. We have revised the sentence for clarity and added more relevant references to support the role of palliative care in improving quality of life.

3. *“In relation to the current state of palliative care in Iran, explain more about what it is like.”*

Response: We have expanded this part in the Introduction to provide a more comprehensive overview of the current situation of palliative care in Iran, including existing challenges and gaps.

4. *“Mention the results of the studies conducted in Iran in the field of obstacles to palliative care, especially the article by Dr. Barsteh, Dr. Ansari.”*

Response: Thank you for this valuable recommendation. We have now cited the studies by Dr. Barsteh and Dr. Ansari and incorporated their findings in the discussion of barriers to palliative care in Iran.

5. *“After the introduction, have a section under the title of conceptual framework and explain SWOT there.”*

Response: In response to your suggestion, we have added a new section titled "Conceptual Framework" after the introduction, where the rationale and structure of the SWOT model used in this study is explained in detail.

6. *(Continued...)*

Response: [You may continue the response here if additional specific comments were included.]

7. In the study method section, mention the reason for choosing the conventional content analysis study by mentioning the reference.

In the study method section, the reason for choosing the conventional content analysis approach has been explained, with reference to the relevant source.

8. Is planned manner sampling the same as purposeful sampling?

Yes, planned manner sampling is the same as purposeful sampling.

9. Provide an example of how to code data.

An example of how to code data has been provided in this section, demonstrating the coding process in content analysis.

10. Write the findings according to the main classes. First, the main dimension is given and then the sub-classes of each class are explained.

The findings have been organized according to the main classes. First, the main dimension is presented, followed by the explanation of the subclasses within each class

11. Give a quote for each of the subclasses.

A quote has been provided for each of the subclasses.

12. The following sentence is incomplete in terms of concept and writing.

The incomplete sentence has been revised for clarity and to ensure a complete conceptual explanation.

13. Five kinds of complete support, effective communication, uncertainty, information seeking, and structural-systemic elements were identified as a consequence of this research.

Five types of complete support, effective communication, uncertainty, information seeking, and structural-systemic elements were identified as a consequence of this research.

14. The following sentence is semantically problematic. I think it is necessary to make editorial and grammatical corrections in terms of translation. The phrase "to be taken away from" means to be removed.

The problematic sentence has been corrected both semantically and grammatically. The phrase "to be taken away from" has been corrected to mean "to be removed."

15. The first class to be taken away from this research is all-encompassing assistance, which emphasizes pain management and spirituality as assets.

The first class extracted from this research is all-encompassing support, which emphasizes pain management and spirituality as key assets.

16. Present the discussion by classes and subclasses.

The discussion has been presented according to classes and subclasses.

We hope the revisions address your concerns and meet the journal's standards. Once again, thank you for your constructive feedback and kind support.

Sincerely,

OPEN PEER REVIEW

Revision (2)

REFEREE : EIC

7 May 2025

Dear Author,

Thank you for submitting your work to IJCM.